United Nations A/63/525

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 November 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 14
Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic*

Report of the Secretary-General**

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* The present report was prepared on the basis of replies from organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and Member States.

** The document was submitted late to conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report was submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

08-59266 (E) 211108 251108

I. Introduction

1. On 13 September 2007, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/294 entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic", in which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/253 and Add.1) and requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United nations system to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic might seek in their joint efforts to implement the Luanda Plan of Action (A/61/1019, annex I). The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-third session, taking into account, inter alia, the views addressed by Member States.

2. Pursuant to resolution 61/294, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale, dated 18 September 2008, to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations requesting their views. On 18 September, letters were also dispatched to the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations requesting them to submit by 30 October 2008 their contributions for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General.

3. As at 3 November 2008, two Governments had replied and five contributions had been received from the organizations and bodies of the United Nations. Those replies are reproduced in sections II and III of the present report. Any further replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Angola

[Original: English]
[28 October 2008]

1. The zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic is in a process of revitalization. Accordingly, following the Ministerial Meeting held in Luanda on 18 and 19 June 2007, States members of the zone are creating conditions for the aforementioned revitalization. The present reply provides an account of the actions in course to that effect.

2. It is worthwhile mentioning that the revitalization process of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic gained momentum when, on 22 September 2006, then Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, João Bernardo de Miranda, proposed to his counterparts in New York a set of actions in line with what has been called "The Luanda Initiative", which served as a base for three workshops on subjects of common interest for the zone in New York, Montevideo and Buenos Aires, dedicated to the following topics:

(a) **Economic cooperation**, contributing to poverty eradication by creating partnerships for sustainable development, trade, investment and tourism.

(b) **Peacekeeping operations**, crime prevention and combating drug trafficking, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and transnational organized crime, including piracy.

(c) **Peace, stability and security**, including conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

(d) **Scientific research, environment and marine issues.**

3. The aforementioned workshops constituted the preparatory process of the sixth Ministerial Meeting, held in Luanda on 18 and 19 June 2007, and created the necessary conditions to launch the zone's revitalization process. The Luanda Initiative was also instrumental in assisting member States to reach a platform for action based on the Luanda Final Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the sixth Ministerial Meeting.

4. The Declaration and Plan of Action were circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/61/1019) in order to inform all States Members of the United Nations of the results of the Luanda meeting and to get the support of the Organization and of other organs as well as from individual Member States.

5. As proposed by the States members of the zone, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/294 on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

6. In the Luanda Plan of Action (A/61/1019, annex I), the Ministers entrusted the Chairmanship of the zone, Angola, with some immediate tasks, namely the indication of national focal points, the creation of a website, the holding of a meeting of either the Permanent Committee or the focal points with a view to guiding the work of the ad hoc working groups foreseen in the Plan of Action.

7. The Chair received from States members of the zone an indication of their focal points, who have the task of facilitating the coordination of the national sectors and liaising with member States on issues related to the zone.

8. Consequently, the Permanent Committee held three meetings. The first resulted in the provision of a better definition of the ad hoc working groups in the light of the Luanda Plan of Action by assigning the working groups to sectors. At the second meeting, held on 18 December 2007, the Committee took the important decision of assigning tasks among member States regarding the coordination of the working groups, as follows:

Group	*Coordinators*
Ad hoc working group of experts on economic cooperation: creation of partnerships for sustainable development, trade, investments and tourism. This group will include subgroups in order to encompass related fields:	Brazil
• **Subgroup on transport and communications development**	
• **Subgroup on science and technology**	
Ad hoc working group of experts on conflict prevention and resolution as well as peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding	Uruguay and Nigeria

Group	*Coordinators*
Ad hoc working group of experts on scientific research, the environment and marine issues. This group will include the following subgroup:	Argentina • Namibia's coordination of the environmental part to be confirmed
• Subgroup on the Environment	
Ad hoc working group of experts on the fight against illicit activities and organized crime	Sierra Leone
The Chair will propose to the members of the zone concrete actions regarding the following fields whenever the need arises:	
• Education, Sports and Culture, including aspects related to the Diaspora	

The first meeting of the focal points of the zone was held in Luanda on 15 and 16 April 2008. This was the first event of its nature in the history of this cooperation mechanism. The recommendations of this meeting were reviewed by the Permanent Committee during a meeting held in New York on 1 May 2008.

10. The meeting of the focal points, which had the participation of 18 of the 24 States members of the zone, ended with positive results, with an offer by Nigeria to host a meeting of the ad hoc group on peacekeeping operations, an offer by Brazil to host a meeting of experts on economic matters, and an offer by Cape Verde to host a workshop on maritime security, organized crime and drug trafficking. The Permanent Committee met in New York on 3 May 2008 and ratified the results of the meeting of focal points. The focal points further identified some areas of potential cooperation among States members of the zone in the areas of agriculture, innovative sources of financing and poverty reduction, law of the sea, fisheries, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

11. Following the Ministerial Meeting in Luanda, new developments took place in the relations between zone members, including the establishment of diplomatic relations between countries and the signing of cooperation agreements. In his capacity as Chairman of the zone, the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola visited two States members of the zone, Brazil and Uruguay, during his tour of South America. As a result of that visit, Angola and Uruguay signed a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of political consultations between the two countries on 22 September 2008, at the margins of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

12. Other entities from the States members of the zone visited Uruguay, namely the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Namibia (11-17 November 2007), the Foreign Minister for Equatorial Guinea (21-24 November) and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon (25-29 October 2007). During the visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, both sides agreed to hold a second session of the Bilateral Commission and to study possibilities of visa exemption between the two countries. Gabon also met at the ministerial level with Brazil and Uruguay, at the margins of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, to study further ways of enhancing bilateral relations.

13. In relation to the establishment of diplomatic relations between States members of the zone, Uruguay has formalized diplomatic relations with Liberia (31 May 2007), Guinea (19 June 2007), Gambia (25 September 2007), Togo (28 September 2007) and Benin (14 February 2008).

14. It is clear that the current phase of developments has been characterized by the creation of necessary conditions for a new stage in cooperation among zone countries, based on concrete actions of common interest. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 61/294, the General Assembly requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system, and invited the relevant partners, including international financial institutions, to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone might seek in their joint efforts to implement the Luanda Plan of Action. It is therefore important that the actions under way in the framework of this important mechanism of cooperation between Africa and South America be fully supported.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[31 October 2008]

1. Colombia supports all initiatives for the peaceful settlement of conflicts and the promotion of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. Multilateral forums like the United Nations and regional bodies like the Organization of American States (OAS), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and its associated States, and the Rio Group can provide support to this end.

2. Disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are basic principles of Colombia's foreign policy. The country has accordingly taken an active part in all initiatives towards that goal. Colombia has reiterated the importance of adopting a multilateral approach on these issues, which are crucial for world peace and security, with all due regard for the rights and obligations of States and with the participation of the entire international community.

3. Colombia also remains firmly committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to the Treaty of Tlatelolco which establish in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first-ever densely populated nuclear-weapons-free zone. This fact must be highlighted, since the Treaty and its implementation are a contribution by the region to international peace and security.

4. As a further demonstration of its commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation on 28 January 2008, Colombia deposited with the United Nations Secretariat the instrument of its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

5. In the various international forums, Colombia has emphasized the importance of efforts aimed at initiating negotiations towards the establishment of other denuclearized zones in the world. Moreover, in accordance with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, it has advocated dialogue and negotiation in all circumstances as the best means of settling disputes and has sought to promote joint efforts to meet the challenges of development, peace and

security on a cooperative and constructive basis. The establishment of zones of peace and cooperation is one way of working together along those lines.

6. Colombia also contributes to initiatives for development cooperation and promotion in the South Atlantic, as shown by its participation in the third high-level forum on aid effectiveness, held in Ghana in September 2008, the high-level meeting on development needs in Africa and the first South America-Africa Summit, held in November 2006.

7. Colombia considers it of vital importance that concrete action be taken to promote and support the progress of the African continent towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. That will only be possible if there is an international commitment to attaining those targets in all regions of the world, by narrowing the gaps both between and within countries.

8. Colombia has accordingly expressed interest in strengthening bonds of cooperation with the African continent, by offering to share with the latter, its own experience in many areas, including the implementation of national development plans and poverty reduction strategies, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and long-term development policies for countries affected by situations of violence generated by illegal armed groups.

9. Moreover, Colombia believes that peace and stability in the South Atlantic region can only be achieved through technical and political cooperation to counter all aspects of illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons and the funding of criminal and terrorist networks. This is essential in order not to destabilize institutions, undermine democratic governance or harm production sectors.

10. Colombia thus expresses its full support for General Assembly resolution 41/11 and subsequent related resolutions, and its determination to work for the consolidation of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

III. Replies received from organizations and bodies of the United Nations system

Department of Public Information

1. The Department of Public Information contributes materials and advice to the peacekeeping training centres in Accra and Rio de Janeiro, both of which are also directly supported by the United Nations information centres in those cities.

2. The Department has been actively involved in assisting the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and the Government of Sierra Leone in their joint project to transition the popular United Nations radio station to become a public service broadcaster. UNIPSIL has also been assisting the Government with drafting a progressive media law to enable and support such a public service broadcaster. The Department ensured that a public information expert was deployed to Sierra Leone to help plan and launch this project and has also helped UNIPSIL to seek support for it from the Peacebuilding Fund. The Department engaged UNIPSIL to assist with this project, which should ensure open communications between the Government and the public as key to good governance and peacebuilding in Sierra Leone.

3. The Department is actively involved with the peacekeeping missions in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, in particular with their efforts to build the local capacity and promote national ownership of communications. The United Nations radio stations in those two missions have for several years broadcast information about the ongoing peace processes. While serving as platforms for local dialogue and voices, they also educate the public on each step of the process, including on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, elections, the empowerment of civil society and the accountability of new institutions.

4. The Department closely followed issues and developments concerning the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic to ensure the dissemination of related information, in part through the Department's operation on meetings coverage and the issuance of press releases. Through press releases, articles, radio and television stories, the Department promotes peacekeeping contributions from the South Atlantic States, in particular featuring troops from Argentina, Brazil, Ghana and South Africa.

5. Of the network of 63 United Nations information centres around the world, the 8 situated in the South Atlantic region (Accra, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Lagos, Lomé, Rio de Janeiro, Windhoek and Yaoundé) carried out varied activities in support of the Luanda Plan of Action. To promote peace and security, the centres organized educational activities such as courses, lectures and briefings for students, in addition to press conferences, debates, live video-chats, radio programmes, interviews, press releases, placement of op-ed articles, conferences and special websites. The Information Centre in Accra, for example, helped to organize a model United Nations Security Council session as the concluding event of its programme for United Nations Day.

6. The United Nations information centres also assisted in organizing courses on disarmament activities. The Information Centre in Accra provided assistance to the biennial disarmament, demobilization and reintegration course at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in October 2005 as well as to other courses and lectures at the Centre between 2005 and 2008. The Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro provided support for the course on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Rio de Janeiro in May 2008, organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in partnership with the Training Centre for Peacekeeping Operations of the Brazilian Army and the National Defence College of Sweden. The Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro also partnered with the local office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to organize two-week courses on arms, ammunitions and explosives in October and November 2006.

7. The information centres in Accra, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Lagos, Rio de Janeiro and Yaoundé also facilitated seminars, broadcasts of public services announcements, print and radio interviews, and produced brochures, press releases and special online features. In April 2006, for example, the Information Centre in Lomé produced a radio programme on chemical warfare, while the Information Centre in Dakar, along with various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), organized a one-month programme of diverse activities to promote the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in June 2006. At the initiative of the Information Centre in

Buenos Aires, the public service announcement on the illicit trade of small arms, featuring United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, was aired 1,100 times on five cable television stations in Argentina between July and September 2006.

8. To raise awareness of peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts, the information centres organized radio and television programmes and training workshops and arranged interviews and placement of op-ed articles. The Information Centre in Accra, for example, participated in a training programme for Economic Community of West African States journalists in April 2006, while the Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro co-organized the first Brazilian training course for journalists covering peacekeeping missions in March 2008.

9. The information centres also organized lectures, briefings, press releases, assisted with publicity and media arrangements, photo exhibitions, interviews, and ceremonies to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers and the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations throughout 2008.

10. On development issues, activities of the United Nations information centres included workshops, press conferences, television interviews, lectures, briefings, book exhibitions, press releases, placement of op-ed articles, panel discussions, interviews, seminars and other observances. The information centres facilitated the broadcasts of public service announcements, the production and dissemination of information materials and newsletters, the launch of websites and the broadcast of a television documentary. During the World Cup 2006 football qualifying match between the national teams of Cameroon and Egypt, the Information Centre in Yaoundé, for example, distributed banners, T-shirts and information material about the Millennium Development Goals to spectators in the stadium. The Information Centre in Yaoundé produced a radio programme on the day of the African child, which was broadcast on the national radio network in June 2007. In August 2007, the Information Centre in Lagos participated in a three-day information and communications technology exhibition programme entitled "eNNOVATE Expo 2007". In Dakar, a walk against poverty was organized in October 2007, in partnership with the United Nations country team and the Council of Non-Governmental Organizations to Support Development in Senegal. The Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro negotiated with the local authorities to engage the Maracana stadium in the Stand up Campaign, where 85,000 people stood up against poverty on 17 October 2007 after watching a message on the campaign by well-known Brazilian soccer player, José Roberto Gama de Oliveira, known as "Bebeto". The Information Centre in Windhoek organized a choir festival on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in June 2008.

11. United Nations information centre activities on sustainable development included online special features, television and radio interviews and programmes, panel discussions, educational outreach events, press conferences, briefings, seminars, press releases, preparation of articles for publication, placement of op-ed articles, training sessions for journalists, production of information kits and newsletters, lectures and report launches (Accra, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Lagos, Lomé, Rio de Janeiro and Yaoundé). The Information Centre in Buenos Aires, for example, partnered with a local NGO in the organization of a school contest on "The Antarctic: Land of Science and Peace", in which more than 60 schools from Argentina participated from June to October 2007. The Information Centre in

Yaoundé co-organized a two-day conference for NGOs in September 2007, focusing on women and climate change.

12. The activities of the United Nations information centres with civil society and the business community included seminars, briefings, forums, lectures, media briefings, panel discussions, workshops and participation in diverse NGO events (Accra, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Lagos, Windhoek and Yaoundé). In April 2006, for example, the director of the Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro gave a television interview on the work of the United Nations and NGOs, which reached an estimated audience of 100,000 persons. In June 2006, the Information Centre in Lagos assisted with the launch of the United Nations Global Compact Network in Nigeria.

Office of Legal Affairs

1. The Office of Legal Affairs, through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, provides assistance to States by undertaking a variety of capacity-building activities in the field of oceans and the law of the sea and by providing information and advice on the uniform and consistent application of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and which is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector. The Division also serves as the secretariat for the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Fish Stocks Agreement), which provides the legal regime for the conservation, management and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

2. Through its capacity-building activities, the Division has assisted member States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic to further the goals set forth in the Luanda Final Declaration and Plan of Action. As part of the TRAIN-SEA-COAST Programme, which is administered by the Division and funded by the Global Environment Facility, and aimed at providing capacity-building at local and regional levels, training courses have been delivered over the past six years in some member States of the zone focusing on, for example, ballast water management, wastewater management in coastal cities, marine pollution control, an integrated approach to the management of ecosystems in river basins, estuaries and coastal areas, and the role of fisherwomen in coastal communities. Within the current reporting period, the member States of the zone have also benefited from the Nippon Fellowship Programme,[1] which is administered by the Division and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with a view to providing opportunities for advanced education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea and related disciplines, including marine science, to Government officials and other mid-level professionals from developing coastal States.

3. The Division also collaborates with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to administer the Assistance Fund under part VII of the Fish Stocks Agreement, established in 2003 to provide financial assistance to

[1] Fellows have included individuals from Benin, Brazil, Cameroon and Ghana.

developing States parties to the Agreement in the implementation of the Agreement. Under the terms of reference of the Fund, assistance may be requested by developing States for travel-related expenses associated with participation in global or regional meetings on fisheries matters, capacity-building activities and human resource development in the fishing sector, as well as for costs related to settlement of dispute proceedings between States parties concerning the interpretation or application of the Agreement, or the interpretation or application of any global or regional agreement dealing with straddling fish stocks or highly migratory fish stocks to which they are parties.[2] As at 31 October 2008, Guinea, Namibia, Senegal and Uruguay had received financial assistance from the Fund.

4. In relation to the provision of information and advice on the uniform and consistent application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Division assisted the member States of the zone by providing information and advice on the legal framework for maritime security at a regional forum organized jointly by the International Maritime Organization and the Maritime Organization for West and Central Africa, which led to the adoption, in July 2008, of the memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a subregional integrated coast guard network for West and Central Africa.

5. In addition, the Division provides information on various issues of mutual interest for member States of the zone, as outlined in the Luanda Final Declaration and Plan of Action, in connection with its role as secretariat of a number of United Nations processes dealing with marine issues. For example, the open-ended informal consultative process on oceans and the law of the sea, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, focused the discussions of its 2007 meeting on marine genetic resources and its 2008 meeting on maritime security and safety. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction,[3] which met in 2006 and 2008, also provided an opportunity for the consideration of specific issues of mutual interest. Moreover, the informal consultations of States parties to the Fish Stocks Agreement, to which seven of the members of the zone[4] are also parties, regularly address such issues as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and compliance and enforcement in the fishing sector.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued to support progress in compliance with paragraphs 56, 58, 63 and 71 of the Luanda Final Declaration (A/61/1019, annex II), which relate specifically to its fisheries work, particularly to the sustainable use of genetic marine resources; the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity; the use of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices in the zone; and fishing vessels in the high seas.

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[2] Information regarding the Fish Stocks Agreement and the Assistance Fund, including the application procedure thereto, is available at www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_fish_stocks.htm.

[3] See General Assembly resolutions 59/24, paras. 73 and 74, and 61/222, para. 91.

[4] Brazil, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Uruguay.

2. During the past decade, the major actions of FAO were implemented through support of the activities planned under section I, paragraph 2 ("Promote South-South cooperation, particularly in the fields of science and technology as well as in the development of human resources") and section IV, paragraph 1 ("Engage in joint technical and scientific projects involving the protection and responsible management of their marine resources") of the Luanda Plan of Action (A/61/1019, annex I), notably:

(a) A feasibility study on the ecosystem approach to fisheries at the regional and national levels in the Benguela region; this is important in relation to marine biodiversity conservation;

(b) The FAO/Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation/ecosystem approach to fisheries/Nansen project on "Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries". In the past, the Nansen programme has both collected data and carried out biodiversity studies of the marine environment in close collaboration with Angolan scientists;

(c) A project run by the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem Programme on identification of main bio-geographical regions off south-west Africa (including Angola, Namibia and South Africa).

(d) Scientific surveys, as part of the new ecosystem approach to fisheries Nansen programme, in partnership with the Instituto de Investigação Marinha in Angola, through which data on species and habitat distribution are collected.

3. By providing the countries in West Africa with the services of a modern and up-to-date research vessel, FAO allows the countries to obtain the information that is a prerequisite to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic marine resources and marine biological diversity. The project, through its organizational and capacity-building activities and the identification of priority areas and actions for addressing the issues related to the two points indicated above, reinforces cooperation among the countries in West Africa and increases their capacity not only to manage marine genetic resources and biodiversity but also to fight major problems related to this, such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

4. The tasks assigned to the FAO secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture include work related to the availability of information and access to, and benefit sharing of, aquatic genetic resources.

5. With regard to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, FAO developed and adopted in August 2008 international guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas. These include standards and criteria for use by States and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction and the impact of fishing on such ecosystems and establishing standards for the management of deep-sea fisheries.

6. Concern over illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and related activities has been a global concern and a priority issue on the agenda of the international fisheries community for nearly a decade. FAO has been working with the Southern African Development Community and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea for the past year as each group moves towards establishing a

network of monitoring, control and surveillance fisheries professionals in the member countries. The aim is for them to share experiences, pool resources, collaborate on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing incidents, harmonize legislation and management regimes where possible and appropriate, strengthen licensing and authorization provisions, and generate broad-based capacity-building for strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance.

7. FAO has conducted an inventory of satellite-based vessel monitoring systems used for vessel tracking and detection of illegal fishing activities globally. The questionnaire used in the survey was extensive and was supposed to serve as an assessment tool for States. A number of countries on both sides of the South Atlantic responded, indicating increases in the acquisition of this type of technology and FAO is subsequently creating a database of responses so data can be analysed more thoroughly. For direct capacity-building, FAO co-sponsored a global workshop on monitoring, control and surveillance and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing issues for enforcement professionals and a number of participants from the area attended. Another such global fisheries enforcement workshop is planned for Mozambique in 2010.

8. The 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, an integral component of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, entered into force on 24 April 2003. As at 24 October 2008, 35 States[5] and the European Community had accepted the Agreement. The Agreement provides for the creation of an international database concerning high seas fishing vessels, to be maintained by FAO, which will be of great value to States and regional fisheries bodies. Some members that have accepted the Agreement have provided data to FAO for inclusion in the database. The rate of deposit of instruments of acceptance for the Agreement has been low and as a result FAO continues to urge its members to become parties to the Agreement as a means of enhancing the management of high seas fisheries and in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

United Nations Office at Geneva

The United Nations Office at Geneva forwarded an updated list of Member States in the South Atlantic region that have signed, acceded to or ratified multilateral disarmament treaties and conventions since 2003 (see annex to the present report).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Normative work

1. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has assisted and supported national, regional and international efforts to combat transnational

[5] Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Japan, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

organized crime and corruption by providing pre-ratification and implementation assistance for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its three Protocols, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. UNODC has also provided States members of the zone with technical assistance in the fight against transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption, as well as in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

2. Pre-ratification assistance has also been provided to individual countries, including Angola, Benin, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone. Some of the States members of the zone have also attended two pilot study tours organized by UNODC and the Government of Portugal for Portuguese-speaking countries on the ratification and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols (November 2003 and November 2004). UNODC has received, and is in various stages of responding to, requests for assistance from several other countries in the zone.

3. Argentina is one of the countries participating in the voluntary pilot programme launched by UNODC to review the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.[6]

4. At present, 4 States members of the zone have signed and 19 States members have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; 3 members have signed and 16 members have become parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons; 5 members have signed and 15 members have become parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea; 1 member has signed and 11 members have become parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition; and 2 members have signed and 19 members have become parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Technical cooperation and human and institutional capacity-building

5. Sea freight containers are an integral part of the international trade supply chain, and the volume of freight containers used in global trade increases steadily every year. A fast-growing crime phenomenon is the abuse of commercial sea containers by international organized crime groups for the trafficking of illicit drugs and precursors, as well as for other criminal gain (smuggling and/or contraband explosives, weapons, munitions, nuclear materials, counterfeit goods protected under intellectual property rights treaties, etc.).

6. In 2004 UNODC embarked on a container control pilot programme to assist Governments in selected countries to establish effective container control units at priority ports. In the region of the South Atlantic, two African States, Ghana and Senegal, are participating in the pilot phases, while Brazil is in preliminary negotiations to be included under the programme. The enforcement units to be

[6] Under the pilot, each of the States participates in reviews with another State in its regional group and with a third State in an effort to foster closer regional dialogue and, when possible, to place benchmarks and review efforts in comparable contexts. The participating States reply to the self-assessment checklist prepared by the secretariat and the expert review group analyses the responses.

established will serve to strengthen controls and prevent trafficking in illicit goods and other organized crime, while at the same time facilitating legitimate trade. The programme will develop, at the pilot ports, proper analytical and profiling systems and capacities, so as to identify and interdict containers posing a high risk, and allow the smooth transport of legitimate freight. The programme provides all required technical assistance to the pilot sites to conduct effective analysis and profiling, provide the subsequent control of high-risk containers, and follow-up investigation as needed, through a bundled package of training, advisory, expert, and other services and equipment. These dedicated multi-agency port control units, comprising customs and enforcement officers, will also receive the required search and selection equipment and computer equipment needed for their analytical work. New partnerships are also being forged between enforcement and the trade/business communities at ports and at the global level.

7. In 2007 and 2008 UNODC has been implementing a project on data for Africa, which aims to strengthen data collection and analysis, information and knowledge on crime and drugs and their link with socio-economic development issues in Africa. Through the project, UNODC has worked with selected South Atlantic countries to strengthen their capacity to collect and disseminate crime and drug statistics. Within this project and under the framework of other national projects, victimization and corruption surveys were planned and carried out in Cape Verde and Nigeria.

8. In October 2008, UNODC produced a report entitled "Drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa". The report outlines the cocaine trafficking from Latin America to West Africa and destined for Western Europe and highlights the vulnerability of the region, in particular its underresourced criminal justice agencies and the need for international support to counteract this phenomenon.

Cooperation and policy coordination

9. In December 2007 UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Commission of the African Union with a view of specifically enhancing cooperation at regional, subregional and national levels. The areas of cooperation include drug demand reduction, drug trafficking, HIV/AIDS in a prison setting, crime prevention and criminal justice reform, smuggling of small arms, corruption, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants and data collections. The memorandum further outlines that any specific collaboration in these areas should involve close collaboration with the African regional economic commissions.

Annex

List compiled by the United Nations Office at Geneva of Member States in the South Atlantic region that have signed, acceded to or ratified multilateral disarmament treaties and conventions since 2003

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

- Benin, Gabon, Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda and Senegal have become States parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). The ratification by these eight countries brought the total number of ratifications to 26, only two short of the number of ratifications required for the entry into force of the Treaty.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

- Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Rwanda, the Sudan, Togo, the Seychelles, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty since August 2003.
- Belize, Colombia and Suriname have ratified the Treaty since August 2003.

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

- Since August 2003, Gabon, Madagascar and Zambia have become States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.
- During the same period, the Central African Republic, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe have ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.
- Belize also became a State party to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

- Since August 2003, Burundi, Ethiopia, Guyana and the Sudan have ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminative Effects

- Since August 2003, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminative Effects has been ratified by Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Madagascar, Paraguay, Sierra Leone and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

- During the same period, the Niger acceded to Amended Protocol II and Protocol IV and Ecuador to Protocol IV to the Convention. El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Liberia, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Uruguay have all expressed consent to be bound by Protocol V to the Convention on explosive remnants of war, which entered into force on 12 November 2006.

Small arms and light weapons

- The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region of the Horn of Africa entered into force on 5 May 2006. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials on 14 June 2006 in Abuja, which turned the 1998 ECOWAS Moratorium on Small Arms and Light Weapons into a legally binding instrument. The Protocol of the Control of Firearms Ammunition and Other Related Materials in the Southern African Development Community region also entered into force on 8 November 2004.